

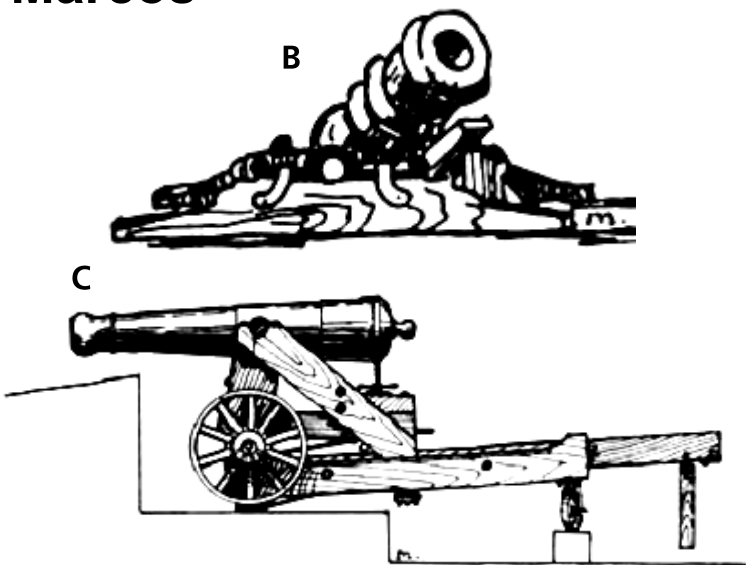
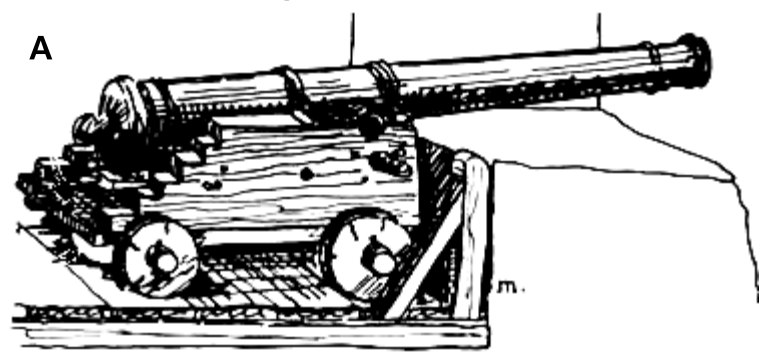
# Historical Ordnance Map and Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Castillo de San Marcos  
National Monument



## The Artillery of Castillo de San Marcos



- A. 18<sup>th</sup> Century Garrison Cannon

B. 18<sup>th</sup> Century Mortar

C. Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Seacoast Cannon

This guide will help you learn about the artillery found on display throughout the Castillo. On the gundeck and in the courtyard, you will find an impressive collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish bronze (green) and cast iron (black) weapons. Outside along the seawall rests a collection of artillery made by the United States Army in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Use the map on the back of this brochure to help identify each gun. **Remember: these cannons are museum artifacts. Please do not sit or climb on the cannons.**

### Bronze vs. Iron

Both metals were used throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Each metal has advantages and disadvantages, depending on where and how the gun is intended to be used. Cast iron was more commonly used because it was lighter and less expensive.\* Most fortifications preferred the iron. On the other hand, iron was more vulnerable to the elements and rusted easily. Iron guns would become brittle and dangerous over a short period of time and were subject to exploding (see cannon #27). When expended, an iron cannon was scrapped.

Bronze, although heavier, withstood the stress of firing much better. Also, less metal was needed to construct the weapon. The non-rusting bronze was preferred for the damp environments of ships and seacoast forts. A bronze cannon had nearly twice the life expectancy of an iron gun, and once expended, the bronze could be melted down and recast into a new weapon.

\*A 24-pounder iron cannon cost (in 2015 US Dollars) \$21,614. A bronze cannon would cost \$46,374.

### The Art of War

Early Spanish bronze artillery could also be described as beautiful works of art. Some are basic in design while others are very ornately detailed. Today, all the bronze guns are covered in a green patina. When first made, they were bright and shiny, like a new penny.

Look closely at each gun for some key features. Starting at the back, you can find the name of the maker, the city where it was made, and the date when the gun was manufactured. Moving up, you will find the royal coat of arms of the Spanish King & Queen who reigned

during the making of the weapon. Next are a couple of raised handles called *dolphins*. Moving closer to the front of the gun, a banner bears the cannon's name. Two cannons (#14 & #26) also have a second, larger banner that reads "*Violati Fulmina Regis*" (Thunderbolts of an offended/angry king.) Each trunnion (the pivot bars on the sides of the gun) lists where the metal was acquired, the gun's maintenance record, and how much the weapon weighs. Other features found on some of the cannons include capture dates stamped by the US Army.

To begin your tour of Castillo's artillery, arrive at the top of the gundeck stairs and walk towards the flag pole (to the RIGHT.) Use the map on the back of this brochure.

1. 24-pounder cast iron. Circa 1750. Transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) with the fort in 1935.

2. Same as above.

3. 4-pounder bronze. Seville, 1737. Named *La Sibila* (The Fortune Teller). Gifted to NPS, 1953.

4. 16-pounder bronze. Barcelona, 1743. Named *El Camilo* (The Camillus). Transferred from West Point Military Academy, 1962. Interesting note: Made from recycled bronze.

5. 24-pounder cast iron. Circa 1690. Transferred 1935.

6. 18-pounder cast iron. Circa 1750. Transferred 1935.

7. Same as #6.

8. 24-pounder cast iron. Circa 1750. Transferred 1935.

9. 18-pounder cast iron. Circa 1690. Made in Sweden. Found in Savannah River, 1914. Gifted to NPS, 1955.

10. 15-inch bronze mortar. Barcelona, 1724. Loaned to NPS, 1971.

11. 12-inch bronze mortar. Seville, 1784. Gifted to NPS, 1958.

12. 8-pounder bronze. Seville, 1798. Named *El Uenado* (The Deer). Gifted to NPS, 1978. Interesting note: U's and V's were sometimes interchanged historically.

13. 6-pounder bronze. Seville, 1762. Transferred from West Point Military Academy, 1962.

14. 18-pounder bronze. Seville, 1735. Named *El Daedalo* (The Daedalus). Loaned to NPS, 1971.

15. 12-pounder bronze. Seville, 1798. Named *Facheno* (Braggart). Received from West Point Military Academy, 1962.

16. 4-pounder bronze. Seville, 1795. Named *Abilud* (older brother, or Biblical name). Gifted to NPS, 1960.

17. 2-pounder cast iron. Circa 1700. Transferred 1935.

18. Same as above

19. 12-inch bronze mortar. Barcelona, 1783. Named *El Icaro* (The Icarus). Gifted to NPS, 1960.

20. 12-inch bronze mortar. Seville, 1807. Named *Abajado* (Crouching One). Gifted to NPS, 1960.

21. 4-pounder cast iron. Circa 1700. Found buried in St. Augustine. Gifted to NPS, 1954.

22. 15-inch bronze mortar. Barcelona, 1724. Loaned to NPS, 1971. Interesting note: Has a rare Luis I crest.
23. 12-inch bronze mortar. Seville, 1774. Gifted to NPS, 1958.

24. 4-pounder bronze. Barcelona, 1768. Named *El Jazmin* (The Jasmine). Transferred to NPS, 1962.

25. 3-pounder cast iron. Circa 1690. Found buried in St. Augustine. Gifted to NPS, 1954.
- Located in Courtyard and Inside Rooms

26. 18-pounder bronze. Seville, 1764. Named *El Milanes* (The one from Milan). Loaned to NPS, 1971.

27. Fragment of 16-pounder cast iron cannon. Circa 1690. Exploded in 1702, killing 3 crew members. Found buried in Castillo's moat.
- Located in Water Battery (Seawall)

28. – 35. Cast iron howitzers of various sizes. A design combining a cannon and a mortar. Circa 1815-1846. Transferred 1935.

36. 32-pounder cast iron. United States Model 1841 Seacoast Cannon. Found in the waters off Naval Station Mayport, Jacksonville, FL. Transferred to NPS, 1978.

